

JC06 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 JUN 2005

Claims.

1. (Currently Amended) Vessel for receiving or melting molten silicon comprising a silicon composite thermet sprayed coating comprising metal silicon, silicon nitride and silicon oxide on at least a part of the interior wall of the silicon holding vessel, **characterized in that** the silicon composite thermet sprayed coating has comprising a mixing ratio of metal silicon (X): silicon nitride (Y): silicon oxide (Z) of X:Y:Z: = 20-50: 77-30: 3-20.
2. (Currently Amended) A vessel according to claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the silicon composite thermet sprayed coating is formed by spraying a silicon composite thermet material made by adding metal silicon as a bonding material to a mixture of Si_3N_4 and SiO_2 silicon nitride and silicon oxide.
3. (Currently Amended) A vessel according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** wherein the silicon holding vessel is made from comprises a material comprising selected from a group consisting of silicon oxide, boron nitride and/or and graphite.
4. (Currently Amended) A vessel according to claim 3, wherein the silicon oxide (SiO_2) is selected from a group consisting of densified fused silica or and sintered fused silica.
5. (Currently Amended) A vessel according to claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the coating has a thickness of 20-500 μm , preferably of 50-300 μm .

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a vessel for ~~receiving or melting~~ molten silicon, ~~which comprises the method comprising~~ spraying a silicon composite thermet material ~~consisting of comprising~~ metal silicon, silicon nitride and silicon oxide on ~~the an~~ interior wall of ~~said the~~ vessel, thereby forming a silicon composite thermet sprayed coating wherein the silicon thermet sprayed coating has a mixing ratio of metal silicon (X): silicon nitride (Y): silicon oxide (Z) of X:Y:Z: = 20-50: 77-30: 3-20.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein ~~said the~~ vessel is ~~made from comprises a material comprising selected from a group consisting of~~ silicon oxide, boron nitride ~~and/or and~~ graphite, ~~preferably densified or sintered~~ fused silica.
8. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the silicon oxide comprises densified fused silica.
9. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the silicon oxide comprises sintered fused silica.
10. (New) A vessel according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness 50-300 μm .